

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 01712 031620Z

21

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7176

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C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 1712

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IN, UR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY PROFESSOR MOROKHOV, USSR, RE INDIA

REF: IAEA VIENNA 1696 (NOTAL)

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSIONS FEBRUARY 27 REPORTED
REFTEL, PROFESSOR MOROKHOV WAS QUERIED RE INDIAN
NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER SOVIETS HAD ANY
CURRENT DEALINGS WITH INDIA IN NUCLEAR
MATTERS, PROFESSOR MOROKHOV REPLIED THAT INDIANS
HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED SOVIETS WITH REQUEST FOR
HEAVY WATER. ACCORDING TO HIM, USSR HAS GENERAL
POLICY OF EXPORT SALES OF HEAVY WATER. HE WENT
ON TO GIVE CATEGORIC ASSURANCE THAT IN MEETING INDIAN
REQUEST, AS WELL AS OTHERS, SOVIETS WOULD ADHERE
STRICTLY TO LONDON SUPPLIERS GUIDELINES.

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PAGE 02 IAEA V 01712 031620Z

3. WE ASKED IF SOVIETS HAD ANY INDICATIONS INDIANS WERE PLANNING SECOND "PNE" TEST. MOROKHOV SAID SOVIETS WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY FIRST INDIAN TEST, AND COULD NOT KNOW WHAT INDIAN INTENTIONS WERE RE SECOND TEST. WHEN PRESSED WHETHER SOVIETS HAD MADE THEIR VIEWS ON SUCH TESTS KNOWN TO INDIANS IN PRIVATE, SINCE THEY HAD NOT DONE SO IN PUBLIC, MOROKHOV SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT TALK OF WHAT HAD BEEN DONE PRIVATELY, AND SUCH MATTERS WERE INFLUENCED BY NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNTRIES, NEVERTHELESS THE INDIANS WERE AWARE OF SOVIET ATTITUDE.

4. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO MOROKHOB THAT IN ORDER TO TRY AND BRING INDIANS INTO SUPPLIERS AGREEMENT, IT MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO APPROACH THEM EARLY ON, RATHER THAN AFTER A NUMBER OF SMALLER COUNTRIES HAD BEEN APPROACHED. GIVEN INDIAN SENSE OF SELF-IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY TO WHAT THEY MIGHT PERCEIVE AS SLIGHTS, THOUGHT WAS THAT CHANCES OF OBTAINING INDIAN ADHERENCE WOULD BE INCREASED IF APPROACHED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, DESPITE FACT INDIANS NOT EXPECTED BE EXPORTERS OF TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT IN NEAR TERM. MOROKHOV SAID HE THOUGHT IDEA HAD MERIT AND SHOULD BE GIVEN VERY SERIOUS STUDY. STONE

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